

JUNIOR SAINTS ACTIVITY PLAN

AGES 7–11

EARTH SCIENCE

INTELLECTUAL CORE

Version 2026.1



Look Close, Look Around

Learn to look at the small parts of the world and what lives there.

🕒 60 minutes · one session

🎯 WALK AWAY WITH

- Has stood still outside and named one sight, one sound, and one smell.
- Has sorted three items into living, not living, and used to be living.
- Has watched a simple paper-filter water test.
- Has picked up one piece of litter on the walk back.

📦 BRING / SET UP

- A small outdoor space (a yard, a path, or the edge of a parking lot)
- A small clear cup of dirty water and a paper coffee filter for the water test
- Three labels on the ground: LIVING, NOT LIVING, USED TO BE LIVING
- One small bag for picking up litter on the walk back
- Paper and a pencil for each Junior Saint

FOR THE LEADER

This is a Junior Saints preview of the **Earth Science** badge. No advancement credit is earned here — the goal is to introduce these concepts to Junior Saints alongside the older Saints Global youth working the full BRC. The 4-session Saints Global arc lives under *Activity Plan (SG)* in the BRC builder.

LOOK CLOSE, LOOK AROUND (PAGE 1 OF 2)

THE HOUR

BLOCK 1 · DISCUSSION **Opener — Welcome circle**

⌚ 5 min

Stand in a circle. Each Junior Saint says his name. Then he names one outside place he likes. Examples: a yard, a park, a creek, grandma's garden, the woods behind a friend's house. The leader goes last. Keep each turn short.

BLOCK 2 · SKILL PRACTICE **Look, listen, sniff outside**

⌚ 12 min

1. Walk outside together to a small spot the group can stand around.
2. Stand still for thirty seconds. No talking. Look at the ground first, then the sky.
3. Each youth names one thing he sees. Be small and exact: not 'grass' but 'three brown leaves'.
4. Close your eyes. Listen for ten seconds. Each youth names one sound he heard.
5. Sniff the air. Each youth names one smell — wet dirt, grass, far-off smoke, a flower.
6. Teaching point: a good earth scientist looks small and slow before he looks big and fast.

BLOCK 3 · PHYSICAL **The three-pile sort**

⌚ 15 min

1. Three labels go on the ground a few steps apart: LIVING, NOT LIVING, USED TO BE LIVING.
2. Each youth walks the area for two minutes. Pick up three small things you can carry.
3. Come back. Hold up one item. Walk to the pile you think it belongs in.
4. Tell the group why. A leaf on the ground is used to be living. A pebble is not living. An ant is living — set him back down where you found him.
5. Take turns until every item is sorted. If the group is split on one item, talk it out.
6. Teaching point: every place outside has all three kinds mixed together.

BLOCK 4 · SKILL PRACTICE **The dirty-water test**

⌚ 13 min

1. Sit in a circle. The leader holds up the cup of dirty water.
2. Ask the group: would you drink this? Take three answers. No drinking — only looking.
3. Set the paper filter on top of a clean cup. Pour the dirty water through, slow.
4. Watch what stays on the filter. Watch what came through.
5. The water looks cleaner. It is still not safe to drink. Filters do not catch every small thing.
6. Teaching point: clean water at your sink went through many steps. Older Saints learn each step later.

LOOK CLOSE, LOOK AROUND (PAGE 2 OF 2)

THE HOUR — CONTINUED

BLOCK 5 · SERVICE **The litter walk**

⌚ 10 min

1. Walk back to the meeting space together. Bring the small bag.
2. Each youth looks for one piece of litter on the way. Pick it up and drop it in the bag.
3. Safety: do not touch sharp things, broken glass, or anything with a needle. Tell a leader instead.
4. At the end of the walk, look at what the group picked up.
5. Teaching point: taking care of one small place is the way a Junior Saint helps the earth. Older Saints pick a bigger project.

BLOCK 6 · REFLECTION **Close — Stretch and cheer**

⌚ 5 min

1. Stand in a circle. Reach up high. Then touch your toes. Hold for ten seconds.
2. Drink water.
3. Each Junior Saint says: 'I saw ___ outside today.' Just one thing.
4. Group cheer: 'Look small, look slow!' Three times.
5. Homework: tell your parent one thing you found outside. Show them the spot if you can.

AT THE CLOSE · DEBRIEF

1. Which sound did you hear with your eyes closed?
2. Which pile got the most things — living, not living, or used to be living?
3. What did you pick up on the litter walk?

☑ *This is a Junior Saints preview session. No Earth Science BRC requirements are earned here — the goal is to introduce the looking and the sorting the older Saints will work on.*

HANDOUT 1 OF 1

FROM SESSION — THE DIRTY-WATER TEST

A Water Filter

Print and post so Junior Saints see how a filter cleans water.

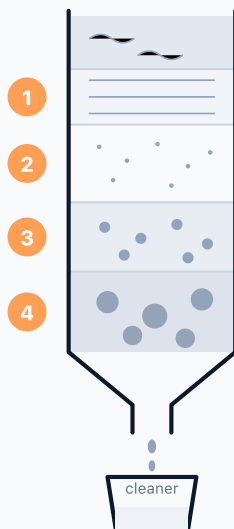
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Clean dirty water with layers.

Four layers catch the dirt. Cleaner is not the same as safe.

Look inside the filter

Dirty water goes in the top. Cleaner water drips out the bottom.



- 1 Cloth**
Catches the big bits.
- 2 Sand**
Catches the small bits.
- 3 Gravel**
Catches more.
- 4 Rocks**
Water drips through.

**Cleaner is not the same as safe.
Do not drink it.**

How the test works

Three steps. Watch what stays and what comes through.

- 1** Dirty water goes in the top.
- 2** Each layer catches some of the dirt.
- 3** Cleaner water comes out the bottom.

Filtered water is cleaner, but only boiled water is safe.

Print this handout for in-person reference during the session.